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## The Mohawk Dress

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*Marymount University*

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## The Mohawk Dress

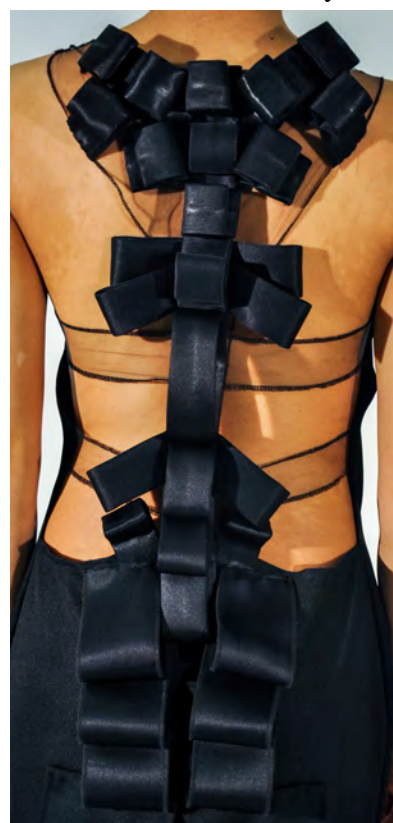
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Keywords: Design, fabric manipulation

I am always intrigued by the way a woman looks when she walks away. For this fabric manipulation project, I focused my detailing on the back of the dress. This particular garment was inspired by the Native American Mohawk headdress. It is a traditional ceremony piece, so I wanted to retain the authenticity of



Native culture. I retained the shape of the headdress and the way it trails on the ground beyond the legs and feet. However, I wanted to add a sleek, almost futuristic edge to my tribal influence. This look was achieved through my choice of fabrication. Neoprene was used to create shiny pop-out box shapes that were then hand stitched to a mesh base. The neoprene is concentrated at the top of the garment and gradually shifts to a black woven fabric near the hips. The black woven fabric has a more flattened appearance and is complimented by a surprising pop of pastel blue chiffon in the middle of the train.



The rest of the dress is the same black woven twill, with a mesh insert on the front right bodice above the bust. The front of the dress has clean, long lines and a simple overlap to cover a separating zipper down the center front. The front of the dress has an asymmetrical length to add dimension.

The materials of the piece are polyester twill, neoprene, polyester chiffon, and nylon mesh.